



# The Turkey Club UK

**President: Janice Houghton Wallace**

**Vice President: Malcolm Thompson**

**Chairman: Peter Hayford**

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**May/June 2024**

Dear Turkey Club supporter

Further to the Flyer that was sent out to all known members on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, this is the first Newsletter from your new Secretary and Committee. The response to the Flyer was good where the emails were correct and there is still firm support for the Club and the breed. An AGM was held on 28<sup>th</sup> March and plans laid for going forward. We are retaining Barclays bank for the Club finances and the PayPal account (see page 6 and the two forms at the back are for when you sell stock) but the increase in levels of security, although necessary, do create an inevitable time distance! Until I get more information, your go-to contact for turkey stock is our Chairman Peter Hayford on 01548 821212. We hope to include a free sales and wants area for Standard colours in the subsequent Newsletters.

Some of you will know that I have been the Secretary of the very successful Dorking Club for over 30 years, so I will do my best to return the TCUK to being vibrant as the months go on. Offers of help are gratefully received. I moved to Yorkshire from Worcestershire (The Domestic Fowl Trust) in the early 1990s to be with Jack Killeen (bringing my Dorkings and turkeys) and train at Liverpool Vet School qualifying in 2000. Thus my involvement with turkeys, having been in charge of stopping the family Christmas turkeys from fighting as a four year old child using a large bell as I was too small to pick up the usual bucket of water, continues currently with Narragansett and Bourbon Reds.

Now that the bird flu threat has so far reduced, it is great news that the National Show is to be held in October (19/20) at Lincoln Showground, judge Pasi Hellsten. We have had to slightly reduce our class numbers in order to allow as many Clubs and entries as possible as the venue is smaller than we are used to. Because the 2023 TCUK AGM did not have a quorum, we have decided to have another AGM at the National as it is our Club Show - a room is booked for the Saturday. TCUK Facebook is being excellently run by Sue Jones and at last with Mike Sumner's help, the website is up and running and taking membership fees. All owners entering for the National Show must have a CPH number by that time due to the new regulation for the GB Poultry Register being mandatory for all poultry as of 1<sup>st</sup> October. If you do not already have one, please contact me and I can help you to do this.

The Federation Show at Stafford Showground on September 21/22 has also requested a reduction in classes, it is a regional show for the Club (judge Victoria Roberts) and we will be attending. Very much looking forward to meeting up with all poultry enthusiasts again.

On 27<sup>th</sup> May the Sherborne Castles Rare Breed Show was attended by Peter Hayford, Malcolm Thompson and the Watermans with a turkey display and the TCUK stand. They reported a good and busy time.

Please continue to protect your birds, maintaining biosecurity actions - bird flu has not gone away. How lovely, my turkey hatch is chuckling quietly in the background.

Victoria Roberts

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT: A TURKEY COMMITMENT

It was 1999 after I had been given a pair of Lavender turkeys as a leaving present from the Production Office of the BBC programme *Countryfile*, when I think it could be said that I had become smitten with turkeys. I had been involved in the Poultry Fancy for a while and when I ran a poultry show at Gransden on

the Cambridgeshire/Bedfordshire border, in an effort to add more interest I added a turkey class to the schedule. Of course, then I decided that I needed more turkeys so that I could support these classes - actually I felt it my duty! - so I drove to the Domestic Fowl Trust to purchase three or four Bourbon Red poults and came home with eight.

When these poults were grown, along with the Lavender pair they were taken to poultry shows that had turkey classes. Then I discovered that there were very few bloodlines left in the UK of the standard turkeys and I had a dream. The dream was to import some turkey poults and increase not only turkey bloodlines but help to improve the standard of the varieties already available.

Having done some research I contacted Silvio Mattacchione who had published *Poultry of the World* by Loyl Stromberg and he pointed me in the direction of Bill Braden in Ontario as Bill was a committed standard turkey breeder. I had to wait two years before Bill felt he could release 60 day-old poults to be exported to the UK. In the meantime I was doing my homework with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAFF), the forerunner of the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), for bringing animals from abroad was no easy matter, even then.

At the time there were regulations for bringing in 20 captive birds or 60 captive birds. Although it was obviously going to cost more to bring in 60 if I was going through all this preparation I might as well bring in 60 while I was at it.

There were conversations with the MAFF Chief Veterinary Officer, who I knew from working on *Countryfile* but biosecurity regulations were so strict that I was almost in tears at one point saying it wasn't going to be possible to achieve then? However, I went along with whatever was required and those in authority turned out to be really helpful. I contacted MAFF in Bury St Edmunds, which was the office dealing with where I lived in Cambridgeshire and someone came out to inspect where I was to quarantine the poults. Because I lived in a reasonably quiet area of South Cambridgeshire with no poultry nearby I was allowed to set up a quarantine shed on the premises, on the understanding that if any of the poults died I had to take them for a *post mortem* at Bury St Edmunds and if their demise had been the result of a notifiable disease then all the poultry on my property would have to be culled. Another precaution was that I had to collect and install five chickens from The Institute for the Research on Animal Diseases at Compton, Berkshire to live in a separate area but in the air space in the quarantine shed as disease reactors. If any of these birds died they would need to be taken for *post mortem* at Bury St Edmunds as well. A new large fowl double poultry exhibition cage was installed on perches across the shed in which these birds lived during the quarantine of the turkey poults. I cannot remember the exact length of time that quarantine lasted but I think it was around three weeks.

After giving advice on how to make the shed acceptable such as having a double door with space to change clothing before entering the area with the poults, making sure it was vermin proof but having an air inlet, having an in and out circulation fan, painting the roof, walls and floor for cleanliness and providing electricity for the heat lamps, the MAFF inspector returned and fortunately approved the building. All down on paper of course.

When I received the news that 60 poults could be sent sometime in January/February 2001 then paperwork had to be finalised between MAFF, The Animal Reception Centre at Heathrow, Silvio Mattacchione, Bill Braden and my local veterinary surgeon who would be required to inspect the poults when they had arrived at my location and in the middle and end of their quarantine.

The parent stock in Canada required to be blood tested beforehand and luckily that all went well and that paperwork was sent to MAFF, Liz Shickle, the veterinary surgeon at the Heathrow Airport Animal Reception Centre, which is the border inspection post for animals coming into the UK and myself. Liz had advised me to arrange a cargo company to receive the poults once they had landed as it would take me far too long to do it myself and the little birds needed to be at their new home as quickly as possible. James Cargo was commissioned and they dealt with the paperwork as well as the poults themselves and turned out to be excellent.

I was advised that the eggs set aside for my importation were soon to hatch so I should wait for a fax for when they were likely to fly and what the consignment consisted of. At this point I notified Compton that I would be driving down to collect the disease-free birds I required for quarantine purposes and off I went. On my return they were safely installed and in effect quarantine restrictions had to begin. Clean shavings were also installed for the poults.

The fax machine was kept on my bedside table and just after 3.00am a day or two later a fax arrived with the news that the poults were on a plane and would be landing at Heathrow just after 9.30am that morning. I went back to sleep for a while and then set off to drive to Heathrow down the M11 and round the M25. On arrival at security my paperwork was checked but when I said I was here to collect my turkey poults

the guard said they were not mine until they had left the airport premises as having arrived at Heathrow they belonged to The Queen! Security was paramount and paperwork approval was needed from MAFF, Heathrow Airport, The Port of London Authority etc. for collection.

Once parked I was more than excited and sat in the Animal Reception Centre with other animal owners all keen to meet up with their cats and dogs again that were coming on a flight from Australia. One lady asked me who I was waiting for and I replied lots of little turkeys from Canada - at which point the room fell silent. Then Liz the vet beckoned me to come through - it was not to see my turkeys at that stage but to have a look at a gigantic wooden crate with two white tigers in, destined for another flight that was to take them to a new zoo home in Europe. They were huge and a magnificent sight and I felt it a real privilege to see them. Then the box with my little poults came through and Liz had to inspect them. Out of the 60 that set off one had perished but the remainder were strong and active.

I drove home as quickly as I could, thankfully without any speeding fines. My brother had put on the heat lamps whilst I was away so that the shed was all ready for them. They settled in and it wasn't too long before they began to eat and drink.

Then I had an awful thought....we experienced lots of power cuts in our area and if the electricity were to cut out those precious little poults would probably perish. I just had to do something about it. I phoned round and found a suitable generator near Huntingdon and drove straight over to buy it. I brought it home having also filled a can with petrol and set it all up in a greenhouse so that it would not be rained on and a long extension lead took the temporary power to the quarantine shed. The generator cost just over four hundred pounds but it was the best four hundred pounds I had ever spent. The following day we had a power cut of nearly five hours and I thank my lucky stars I had reacted when I did and stemmed my concern straight away.

The importation was covered in *The Daily Telegraph* and various poultry magazines. I had approval from MAFF for *The Daily Telegraph* photographer Paul Grover to access the quarantine shed so long as he took all the biosecurity measures with PPE clothing, disinfecting shoes etc. My effort to help the Standard turkeys in the UK had begun and the poults grew into beautiful adults of Narragansett, Royal Palm (that's what they call the black and white turkey in Canada), Bourbon Red, Slate, Blue, Spanish Black and Bronze. Overall the cost of my poult project was three thousand pounds. It was a lot of money, but so worth it.

A couple of years on, the late Jack Killeen - who we miss greatly because he so supported the turkeys and Turkey Club UK - and I, drove to Belgium to collect some Narragansett turkeys from Carl Augustinus. We had been invited to a turkey conference where I gave a talk on the Standard turkeys in the UK. I had to get permission from MAFF to bring the Narragansetts from Belgium to the UK, giving them full details of how many there were, where they were coming from, where they were going once in the UK and on which ferry we would be arriving at Dover along with my car registration number. As I drove the Volvo Estate off the ferry and down the ramp two MAFF veterinary inspectors beckoned me to one side. Once parked I opened the back of the car to show them the turkeys sitting quietly in special boxed compartments that I had made for turkeys to be transported to shows etc. They looked the birds over and commented 'if only all animals were transported like this', so after breathing a sigh of relief Jack and I went on our merry way happy that we had another bloodline of Narragansetts in the country.

Needless to say it has been a long time since I bred any turkeys and I am now living in Australia but the Canadian lines were distributed to breeders throughout the UK and it is important that whoever still has these bloodlines, to please keep them going.

Sad news that Silvio Mattacchione who was passionate about pigeons, died of cancer earlier this year. Bill Braden is also gravely ill and I have sent him all my thoughts and best wishes.

Janice Houghton-Wallace, President, Turkey Club UK

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### **MALCOLM THOMPSON DESCRIBES EVENTS FROM NEWSLETTERS**

**1999** - Idea of a Turkey Club discussed at Kingsbridge Show.

**2000** - First newsletter stating aims of TCUK:

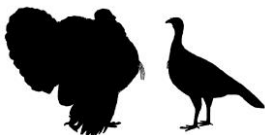
- Conserve and promote all breeds of turkey
- Affiliate to the Poultry Club of Great Britain and to decide upon and to maintain breed Standards
- Encourage and assist with advice anyone keeping turkeys
- Work towards establishing higher profile for the turkey as an exhibition bird and utility species of poultry
- Whenever possible promote the turkey by education and illustration.

Inaugural show with DWC at Balsall Common, Coventry on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2000:

- John Breslain judged 52 entries: Champion: Helen Holloway Bronze stag. Res: Amy & Michael Moorhouse. A meeting at the show supported leaving umbrella of the Rare Poultry Society and form an independent breed club. ed,  
 application to affiliate to PCGB.
- Peter Hayford Chair: Janice Houghton-Wallace Sec and Treasurer: Patron Will Burdett: President Carol Harvey: Vice Pres. R Marriot: Committee - Kay Breslain, Michael Moorhouse, Jack Killeen. Main Shows DWC / National / Federation / Kingsbridge / Gransden. Standards committee set up for PCGB Standards Book in 2007. Website established [www.turkeyclub.org.uk](http://www.turkeyclub.org.uk)
- 2002** First census produced a disappointing response, 137 members joined, Year Book compiled. Merchandise available e.g. sweatshirts, cards. Appeal for turkey feathers from crafters.
- 2003** Breeders' Directory established and printed in Year Book. Turkey Archive material received from R King. Standards for Norfolk Black, Buff, and Narragansett finalised. Panel D individual judging test for turkeys. DEFRA regulations on animal disposal - turkeys not exempt. Summer Show Calendar evolves with turkey classes at 10 shows.
- 2004** Workshop at Bicton College, Devon, organised by Duchy, presentations by Peter Hayford and vet Victoria Roberts. Seminars organised by Janssen Animal Health (Coccidiosis & Blackhead), presentation by vet Stephen Lister. Pied (Crollwitzer/Ronquière) Bourbon Red Standards finalised.
- 2005** Protocol established for Avian Flu and Newcastle Disease. Defra Welfare Code for Turkeys. National cancelled - no AGM.
- 2006** Avian Flu - ban on Shows. Defra Poultry Register set up for flocks of over 50 birds.
- 2007** Feb AGM - Derek Kelly becomes President, Stephen Lister Vice President. 180 members despite year absence of shows. New award 'Junior Exhibitor of the Year' proposed. Standards for Poultry Club Book 6<sup>th</sup> edition submitted, White, Blue and Slate Standards finalised. Website review, Michael Sumner re-designed site. Full Show Calendar returns: Balmoral, Devon, Taunton, Cornwall, Highland, Royal. Book *Turkeys are not just for Christmas* written by Janice Houghton-Wallace. Michael Sumner takes over editorship of Year Book. Defra introduces Animal Transport Regulations. First Club Show at National Poultry Show winner - L Burton.
- 2008** 'Young Turkey Keeper of the Year Award' established. Janice Houghton-Wallace trophy - J Nolan. Turkeys put on the Rare Breeds Survival Trust database. 2008 survey showed increased support - 79 returns with members' reasons for keeping turkeys given as: 51 pets, 22 conservation, 15 exhibition. Members peak 228. Michael Moorhouse and Amy on TV *Ready Steady Cook* promoting turkeys and winning National with Slate.
- 2009** 3 main shows plus 12 others with Poultry Club status. A trio class for Turkeys introduced at Club show. Michael Moorhouse and Amy, T O' Neill and Derek Wakeham join the committee.
- 2010** Poultry Club Turkey test (H) accepted as required for Panel A judge. Turkey workshop at National. Stephen Lister becomes President - a prolific contributor to Newsletters. Turkey eggs sold by Waitrose promotion. Oliver Fowler awarded Young Turkey Keeper of the Year.
- 2011** RBST put all Turkey colours on Watch List. Kelly Turkeys agreed to sponsor website. 30 shows with TCUK sponsored classes. Stacy Gilliver awarded Young Turkey Keeper of the Year.
- 2012** Defra Rules for slaughter published. Janice Houghton-Wallace Poultry on Question time panel at National Show. Turkey Egg Classes at National. AGM - Peter Bradnock elected Vice President : committee joined by S Telling, M Moorhouse, D Wakeham, M Sumner, T O'Neil. Junior Vice Chair appointed - O Fowler. Turkey Survey indicated fewer birds bred, Norfolk Black the most kept variety. Turkey lapel badge added to merchandise.
- 2013** Newsletter - debate regarding standards for Nebraskan and Harvey Spotted. Year Book lists revised Show Standards. Ian Waterman of Heritage Turkeys starts promotional series of articles in *Practical Poultry* (a new magazine). Quinton Rare breeds win National with a Slate.
- 2014** Proposal for TCUK egg standard. Protocol produced by DEFRA in regard of Avian Flu outbreak. Bath & West expands to four days - Club provides display. Turkey classes withdrawn from Scottish National over welfare issues. AGM Peter Bradnock elected as President, I Waterman joins Committee. Janice Houghton-Wallace announces retirement at 2015 AGM.

- 2015** Turkey Open Day at Heritage Turkeys, Dorset. Newsletters change format to A4 colour printing. Pam Drake edits. *Fancy Fowl* magazine provides regular column for TCUK. AGM - Brenda Waterman Sec & Michael Moorhouse Treasurer. Show Sec D Hawkswood and S Hawkswood (Quinton Rare Breeds) merchandise officer. Life Membership given to Janice together with a Libby Turner painting for Services to the Club. List of PCGB approved judges (category H) presented for confirmation. Fund raiser, lack of Newsletters, 138 members, PayPal, Avian Flu.
- 2016** Facebook page established. Joint project with RBST to publicise the 10 Standard varieties of Turkeys launched at Three Counties Show. Training day to introduce breeds to RBST farm parks and members at Heritage Turkeys. Phillipe Wilson (RPS) proposes use of Judging Cards. Poultry Club approve Harvey Speckled Standard. Review of Standards for 7<sup>th</sup> Poultry Club edition sent to members for comment.
- 2017** Avian Flu closed shows. AGM - J Killeen elected President. PayPal used for subscriptions. 138 members now on Facebook.
- 2018** Derek Kelly becomes Patron on death of Will Burdett. Club active in placing Turkeys in Farm parks and RBST centres. Newsletters reduced to two per year which will be augmented by articles in *Fancy Fowl* to publicise TCUK activities. Constitution updated. Census of members to gauge their stock and expectations. Facebook grown to 450 members with 300 making regular posts. TCUK Standards Booklet available to members and for sale. Carol Harvey received a presentation copy of the Standards Book from C Price, RBST, in recognition of his life time contribution to turkeys.
- 2019** FAnGR breeds at risk register breed census carried out. RBST project on 'eating quality of single v broad breasted turkeys' prompted by work of Hannah Moss with Slates in 2018. AGM - President Malcolm Thompson elected, Vice Chair Ian Waterman.
- 2020** Census data correlated and sent FanGR. Numbers of traditional White turkeys critical. Breeders Network established for four breeds: John Mawson (Pied), Malcolm Thompson ( Bourbon Red), Chris Horler (Slate), Ian Waterman (Buff). Covid pandemic curtailed shows and meetings. Avian Flu outbreak, birds confined inside in Autumn. AGM in December on Teams, Treasurer position vacant, Hannah Moss elected Vice-chair.
- 2021** 'Fliers' a single page news sheet sent out in Jan, June, Aug. Newsletter in March. John Mawson elected Vice chair, Lisa Trott Assistant Sec. Virtual egg show – Best 3 Eggs Chris Bennett; Best Single Karen Elliot; Best Contents Sue Jones. Application to Poultry Club for turkeys to be on pilot scheme for using wing tag for identification.
- 2022** AGM – January, Janice Houghton-Wallace elected President. Open day proposed for June with Chris and Lisa Horler. Avian Flu restrictions not lifted so no Poultry gatherings. National Show replaced by Egg Show in October at Telford.
- 2023** March AGM no Quorum achieved. Secretary gave notice but continued to act as a contact until new committee formed. Governance carried out by networking group who had monthly meetings on Teams.
- 2024** Victoria Roberts agreed to become Acting Secretary in January, subsequently elected at AGM in late March, promoted by a Flyer to all known members in early March. AGM: President: Janice Houghton-Wallace for a final year, Chairman: Peter Hayford for one year, Vice Chair: Derek Wakeham then take over Chair, committee: Diane Tanner, Cliff Nixey, co-option where necessary. Four to be a quorum. Sue Jones in charge of Facebook and merchandise. Kay Roadnight already kindly agreed to sort rosettes and trophies. It took until the end of June to get organised with bank, Paypal and website. An interim Newsletter was sent with subsequent updates e.g. rescuing the website and getting it updated and visible, current officers on website. Avian Influenza risk returned to low, so shows are allowed, the National on 19 and 20 October at Lincoln Showground, the Federation at Stafford Showground on 21 and 22 September, TCUK will be at both plus another AGM at the National, agenda to follow.

TURKEY BREED CHAMPIONS							
	YEAR	Name	Breed	Sex	Age	Entries	Judge
Ist Show DWC	2000	Helen Holloway	Bronze	Stag		52	J Breslain
Club Show DWC	2001	Janice Houghton Wallace	Crollwizter				C Nixey
PC RPS	2001	M & A Moorhouse	Bronze	Hen		32	M Thompson
Club Show DWC	2002	Janice Houghton Wallace	Narragansett	Stag			
PC	2002	P Hayford	Bronze	Hen			A Sheppy
Club Show DWC	2003	Janice Houghton Wallace	Narragansett	Stag		36	J Killeen
PC RPS	2003	Oliver Fowler	Pied Stag	Stag		38	C Harvey
Club Show DWC	2004						
PC RPS	2004	J Killeen	Narragansett	Stag		33	W Burdett
	2005	Cancelled Avian Flu					
National DWC	2006	Janice Houghton Wallace	Narragansett	Stag			M Moorhouse
Feb	2007	Kay Roadnight	Bronze	Stage		22	M Thompson
Club Show	2007	Lawrence Burton	Slate	Hen		37	B Shepherd
	2008	M & A Moorhouse	Slate	Hen		43	P Hayford
	2009	Oliver Fowler	Narragansett	Stag		37	B Shepherd
	2010	Sophie Telling	Bronze	Stag		40	Janice Houghton Wallace
	2011	Graham Hicks	Narragansett	Stag		36	B Webb
	2012	GD & SM Thurland	Slate	Hen		40	M & A Moorhouse
	2013	Quinton Rare Breeds	Slate	Stag		37	D Wakeham
Telford	2014	Diane Tanner	Pied	Hen		44	Clare Beebe
	2015	Diane Tanner	Pied	Stag	Egg show	44	I Simpson
	2016	Diane Tanner	Pied	Stag		49	P Hayford
	2017	Diane Tanner	Slate	Stag		21	Sophie Merchant
	2018	Diane Tanner	Pied	Stag		28	Janice Houghton Wallace
	2019	Diane Tanner	Slate	Stag		29	Ian Simpson
	2020	Cancelled Covid					
	2021	Cancelled Avian Flu					
	2022	Cancelled Avian Flu					



## Turkey Club UK

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OR SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL (delete not applicable)

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

Telephone.....Email.....Date.....

Colours kept and approximate numbers.....

Source of stock, if known.....

### Newsletters are issued May and November.

Annual Subscriptions: Junior (under 16) £5, Adult £10, Family £15, Corporate £50, payable on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

Please make cheques payable to Turkey Club UK and from Europe, send Euros as cash.

BACS or a Standing Order: Barclays, sort code 20-77-85, account number 23570320, putting your name as the reference.

Or pay £11 (adult) £16 (family) or £5 (child under 16) via Paypal with [www.turkeyclub.org.uk](http://www.turkeyclub.org.uk)

Your consent is needed for future communications. For consent, please mark here

*Thank you for your support*